

PUBLIC HEALTH, B.A.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES,
HUMANITIES AND ARTS



WHY APPLY TO PUBLIC HEALTH, B.A.?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial role public health plays in the well-being of our communities. As one of the biggest majors within the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at UCM, Public Health offers a range of opportunities for students to:

- ▶ Choose from a diverse set of courses offering versatile and transferable skills for the job market and graduate/professional school
- ▶ Engage with faculty on issues relevant to the San Joaquin Valley, California, and beyond, such as mental health, environmental health, and immigrant health
- ▶ Pursue research, community initiatives, and internship opportunities for experiential learning
- ▶ Thrive in a program with a successful track record of job placement and graduate/professional school applications
- ▶ Participate in extracurricular activities that promote collaboration, networking, leadership skills, and community service

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PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**
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#13 IN THE NATION
for best undergraduate
teaching among public
universities

*(U.S. News & World Report Best
Colleges Rankings, 2020)*

PUBLIC HEALTH, B.A.



The mission of the Public Health program is to promote and protect health in the San Joaquin Valley and the world through rigorous training of the next generation of public health leaders. Our multidisciplinary minor and major programs train students to identify and assess the underlying causes of health and disease, conduct independent research, and develop interventions to solve some of the most critical public health issues facing the world. Our coursework includes public health theories and applications, epidemiologic methods, health disparities, health policy, and environmental health.

Our courses and research opportunities promote versatile skills training, including quantitative reasoning, data analysis, epidemiologic investigation, critical thinking, problem solving, health promotion, health communication, writing, research methods, and policy development. These skill sets prepare students to enter fields ranging from laboratory science to health promotion to policy advocacy. Many of our students pursue advanced training in graduate or professional schools.

Internship Opportunities

- ▶ The opportunity to gain real-world public health work experience is part of our curriculum. The UCM Department of Public Health has close ties with local public health agencies and community based organizations. Our students have been successful at obtaining internships and job placements in all sectors including the private industry, government, non-profit organizations, and academia.

Graduate Program Opportunities

- ▶ The rigorous multidisciplinary coursework coupled with numerous research opportunities will uniquely prepare students for graduate and professional schools. Our graduates have successfully applied to prestigious graduate and professional programs both in and outside of California.

Job/Career Prospects

Public health offers rewarding careers in a variety of fields and settings including:

- ▶ Behavioral science
- ▶ Biomedical laboratory
- ▶ Biostatistics
- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Environmental health
- ▶ Health education and health promotion
- ▶ Health services administration
- ▶ Health policy
- ▶ Global health
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Public health practice and program management



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nia Jones B.A. in Public Health, 2018

Nia majored in Public Health and received her B.A. in 2018. While at U.C. Merced, Nia served as a Peer Health Educator and a CalFresh Outreach intern, and was a member of the Black Student Union. During her junior year, she spent a summer with the U.C. Sacramento Center, where she interned with Health Access California. She received the campus' Distinguished Leadership Award in 2018. Nia currently serves as a Healthcare Field Representative for Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-6). She is also pursuing a Master's of Public Health in Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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